GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:505
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2006
EXODUS OF RURAL PEOPLE
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent or to discourage the exodus of rural people to urban areas during the last three years for better infrastructure ;

(b)Whether the Government is seriously thinking to provide and develop the like infrastructure of the urban areas in the rural areas of the country;

(c) If so, the details of schemes formulated and implemented indicating the funds allocated or being allocated there under for developing urban like infrastructure in rural areas; and

(d) The employment generated/to be generated in the rural areas as a result there of along with the success achieved in checking such exodus of rural people?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a)to(d) The Government is implementing the Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA) scheme with effect from 2004-05 for a period of three years on a pilot basis in seven clusters by taking one cluster each in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to provide physical and socio infrastructure in identified rural clusters with the focus on bridging the rural-urban divide and achieving balanced social − economic development. The budget provision of PURA scheme is Rs. 10. 00 crores each in the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006 -07. In the pilot phase, funds were released for developing certain connectivities in the identified clusters like road, market, health, drinking water, education, etc. Based on the experience of the pilot phase, a full-fledged restructured PURA scheme is being formulated so that objectives of the scheme are fully met. The clusters taken under the pilot phase will also be included in the restructured PURA scheme.